

CLAIMS

We claim:

5           1.     A method for using workflows, comprising the steps of:  
              associating workflows with domains in a data structure, each domain  
              identifies a portion of said data structure;  
              receiving a request to perform a task that pertains to said data structure; and  
              performing a first workflow for said task, said first workflow is associated  
10       with a first domain that includes a target of said request.

              2.     A method according to claim 1, wherein:  
              said step of associating includes associating said first workflow with said first  
              domain, said step of associating said first workflow includes choosing a first entry in  
15       said data structure, said data structure is a hierarchical data structure, said first  
              domain includes said first entry and entries below said first entry.

              3.     A method according to claim 2, wherein:  
              said step of performing includes identifying one or more workflows  
20       associated with said target.

              4.     A method according to claim 1, wherein:  
              said request includes an identification of said target;  
              said step of performing includes identifying a set of one more workflows that  
25       perform said task and are associated with domains that include said target, said set of  
              one more workflows includes said first workflow.

              5.     A method according to claim 4, wherein:  
              said request is a request to delete said target.  
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6. A method according to claim 4, wherein:  
said request is a request to modify said target.

7. A method according to claim 1, wherein:  
said request includes an identification of said target; and  
said step of performing includes the steps of:

identifying a set of one more workflows that perform said task and  
are associated with domains that include said target, said set of one more workflows  
includes said first workflow,

reporting said set of one more workflows,  
receiving a selection of said first workflow, and  
performing one or more steps of said first workflow.

8. A method according to claim 1, wherein:  
said step of performing includes identifying workflows for said task,  
identifying domains associated with said workflows for said task, and receiving a  
selection of said first workflow.

9. A method according to claim 1, wherein:  
said steps of associating, receiving and performing are performed by an  
integrated identity and access system.

10. A method according to claim 1, wherein:  
said request is for self-registration.

11. A method according to claim 1, wherein:  
said request is from a parent workflow; and  
said first workflow is a sub-workflow to said parent workflow.

12. A method according to claim 1, wherein:

said data structure is a hierarchical data structure; and  
 each domain identifies an entry in said hierarchical data structure and  
 additional entries below said entry.

- 5           13.     A method according to claim 12, wherein:  
               said hierarchical data structure includes an LDAP directory.

- 10           14.     One or more processor readable storage devices having processor  
               readable code embodied on said processor readable storage devices, said processor  
               readable code for programming one or more processors to perform a method  
               comprising the steps of:

- associating workflows with domains in a data structure, each domain  
               identifies a portion of said data;  
               receiving a request to perform a task that pertains to said data structure; and  
               performing a first workflow for said task, said first workflow is associated  
               with a first domain that includes a target of said request.

- 15           15.     One or more processor readable storage devices according to claim  
               14, wherein:  
               said step of associating includes associating said first workflow with said first  
               domain, said step of associating said first workflow includes choosing a first entry in  
               said data structure, said data structure is a hierarchical data structure, said first  
               domain includes said first entry and entries below said first entry.

- 20           16.     One or more processor readable storage devices according to claim  
               15, wherein:  
               said step of performing includes identifying one or more workflows  
               associated with said target.

17. One or more processor readable storage devices according to claim 14, wherein:

said request includes an identification of said target;

5 said step of performing includes identifying a set of one more workflows that perform said task and are associated with domains that include said target, said set of one more workflows includes said first workflow.

18. One or more processor readable storage devices according to claim 14, wherein:

10 said request includes an identification of said target; and

said step of performing includes the steps of:

identifying a set of one more workflows that perform said task and are associated with domains that include said target, said set of one more workflows includes said first workflow,

15 reporting said set of one more workflows,  
receiving a selection of said first workflow, and  
performing one or more steps of said first workflow.

19. One or more processor readable storage devices according to claim 20 14, wherein:

said step of performing includes identifying workflows for said task, and identifying domains associated with said workflows for said task, receiving a selection of said first workflow.

25 20. One or more processor readable storage devices according to claim 14, wherein:

said steps of associating, receiving and performing are performed by an integrated identity and access system.

21. One or more processor readable storage devices according to claim 14, wherein:

said request is from a parent workflow; and

said first workflow is a sub-workflow to said parent workflow.

22. One or more processor readable storage devices according to claim 14, wherein:

said data structure is a hierarchical data structure; and

each domain identifies an entry in said hierarchical data structure and additional entries below said entry.

23. One or more processor readable storage devices according to claim 22, wherein:

said hierarchical data structure includes an LDAP directory.

24. An apparatus that uses workflows, comprising:

a communication interface;

one or more processor in communication with said communication interface, said one or more processors perform a method comprising the steps of:

associating workflows with domains in a data structure, each domain identifies a portion of said data,

receiving a request to perform a task that pertains to said data structure, and

performing a first workflow for said task, said first workflow is associated with a first domain that includes a target of said request.

25. An apparatus according to claim 24, wherein:

said step of associating includes associating said first workflow with said first domain, said step of associating said first workflow includes choosing a first entry in

said data structure, said data structure is a hierarchical data structure, said first domain includes said first entry and entries below said first entry.

26. An apparatus according to claim 25, wherein:

5       said step of performing includes identifying one or more workflows associated with said target and entries in said hierarchical data structure that are above said target.

27. An apparatus according to claim 24, wherein:

10       said request includes an identification of said target;  
      said step of performing includes identifying a set of one more workflows that perform said task and are associated with domains that include said target, said set of one more workflows includes said first workflow.

28. An apparatus according to claim 24, wherein:

15       said request includes an identification of said target; and  
      said step of performing includes the steps of:  
          identifying a set of one more workflows that perform said task and are associated with domains that include said target, said set of one more workflows  
20       includes said first workflow,  
          reporting said set of one more workflows,  
          receiving a selection of said first workflow, and  
          performing one or more steps of said first workflow.

29. An apparatus according to claim 24, wherein:

25       said step of performing includes identifying workflows for said task, and identifying domains associated with said workflows for said task, receiving a selection of said first workflow.

30. An apparatus according to claim 24, wherein:

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said one or more processors are part of an integrated identity and access system.

31. An apparatus according to claim 24, wherein:

5       said request is from a parent workflow; and  
      said first workflow is a sub-workflow to said parent workflow.

32. An apparatus according to claim 24, wherein:

10       said data structure is a hierarchical data structure; and  
      each domain identifies an entry in said hierarchical data structure and  
      additional entries below said entry.

33. An apparatus according to claim 32, wherein:

15       said hierarchical data structure includes an LDAP directory.